

stances to the time limit imposed on, him,
and in others
to pecuniary and similar considerations. Again,
British
pharisaism being what it is he had never
been able to
give an absolutely complete version of any of
Zola's hooks.
Still he has always tried to preserve the spirit
of the origi-
nal, even when he has been compelled to
throw off his
"COP7" a^ express speed. And in any case his
versions,
like those of others, will at least have served the
purpose of
making most of Zola's views known to
thousands who are
unable to read French.

But to properly appreciate and judge any one
of the works
of the great novelist it must be read in the
original and
in its entirety. That demands a good sound
knowledge of
French. Nothing has amazed the writer more
than to re-
ceive from time to time during the last twelve
years a note
to this effect: " Dear Sir, — I am learning
French, and in
order to gain a better knowledge of it, I think
of trying to
read one of Zola's books with the help of a
dictionary.

Which volume would you recommend me to
try ? "Which
is an easy one ?" Such an idea is, of course,
ludicrous.

Zola's style is not particularly involved, his
vocabulary if
large is not recondite, but to understand him
properly the
reader must possess more than a mere
smattering of French.
In some volumes, too, he deals with technical
subjects, while
in others he occasionally uses slang or purely

Parisian expressions, in which cases dictionaries are of very little help. The present writer found it necessary to study certain subjects carefully before attempting to translate some of Zola's volumes: for it was only by doing so that he could avoid mistakes. For instance, the English version of "Travail" necessitated the perusal of several text-books on metallurgy,